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NO. 14

## HARRISON'S SECOND Annual Message Submitted to Congress.

### Brief and Comprehensive Review of State Affairs.

Shows the Good Effects of Protective  
Tariff—Strong Endorsement of a  
National Election Law.

WASHINGTON, December 1.—Every available seat in the vast galleries which surrounded the chamber of the House was occupied early in the forenoon. A tasteful pyramid of flowers adorned the Speaker's desk.

At noon the Speaker entered the hall and called it to order. The call of the roll disclosed the presence of 227 members, that being a quorum. The House then took a recess till 1:30.

On re-assembling the President's message was read as follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The report of the several executive departments which will be laid before Congress in the usual course will exhibit the operation of the Government for the last fiscal year. Only the more important incidents and results are chiefly such as may be the foundation of recommendations I shall submit, will be referred to in this annual message. The vast and increasing business of the Government has been transacted by the several departments during the year with faithfulness.

The revenues amounting to about \$450,000,000 have been collected and disbursed without revealing, so far as I can see, a single case of delinquency or embezzlement. An earnest effort has been made to stimulate a sense of responsibility on all officers and employees of every grade and the work done by them has almost escaped unfavorable criticism. The chief scrutiny of Congress is invited to all the matters of the administration and to every item of expenditure.

#### PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS.

The friendly relations of our country with the nations of Europe have been undisturbed, while the ties of good will and common interest that bind us to the states of the western hemisphere have been notably strengthened by the conference held in this capital to consider measures for the general welfare. Pursuant to the invitation authorized by Congress, the representatives of every independent state of the American continent and of Hayti met in conference in this city in October, 1889, and continued in session until April 19, 1890. This convocation marks a most interesting and continental epoch in the history of the western hemisphere. It is noteworthy that Brazil, invited under an imperial government, shared as a republic in the deliberations and results of the conference. The recommendations of the conference were all transmitted to Congress at the last session. The International Congress which sat in Washington last winter received a very gratifying result. The regulations suggested have been brought to the attention of all governments represented and their general adoption is confidently expected. The legislation of Congress at the last session in conformity with the propositions of the conference and the proclamation therein provided will be issued when other powers have given notice of admission.

The conference of Brussels to devise means for suppressing the slave trade in Africa afforded an opportunity for a new expression of the interest the American people felt in the work. It soon became evident that the measure proposed would tax the resources of the Congo basin beyond the revenues available under the general act of Berlin in 1884. The United States not being a party to that act could not share in its revision but by a separate act the independent state of the Congo was freed from the restrictions upon a custom revenue. The demoralizing and destructive traffic in ardent spirits among the tribes also claimed the attention of the conference and the delegates of the United States were foremost in advocating the measures for its repression. An accord was reached, the instrument which will be very helpful and extended over a wide region. As soon as these measures shall receive the sanction of the Netherlands they will be submitted for ratification by the Senate. Meanwhile negotiations have been opened for a new and complete treaty of friendship and commerce between the United States and the independent state of Congo.

Toward the end of the past year our imperial government on the western continent, that of Brazil, ceased to exist and was succeeded by a republic. Diplomatic relations were at once established with the new government but it was not completely recognized until an opportunity had been offered to ascertain that it had popular approval and support. When the course of events had yielded assurance of this fact, no time was lost in extending to the new government a full and hearty welcome. It is confidently believed that the good relations of the two nations will be preserved and that the future will witness an increased intimacy of commerce and an expansion of their mutual intercourse.

The peace of Central America has again been disturbed through a revolutionary change in Salvador which was not recognized by the other states and hostilities broke out between Salvador and Guatemala to undo the progress which had been made toward a union of their interests. The efforts of this Government were promptly and zealously exerted to compose their difference and through the efforts of the representative of the United States a provisional treaty of peace was signed August 26, whereby the right of the Republic of Salvador to choose its own rulers was recognized. General Escalante, the chief of the provisional government, has since been confirmed in the presidency by the assembly and recognition duly followed.

#### FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The killing of General Barrundia on

board the Pacific mail steamer Acapulco while anchored in transit in the port of San José, demanded careful inquiry. Having failed in a revolutionary attempt to invade Guatemala from Mexican territory, General Barrundia took passage at Acapulco for Panama. The consent of the representatives of the United States was sought to effect this seizure first Champerico, where the steamer touched, and after at San José. The captain refused to give up his passenger without a written order from the United States minister. The latter forwarded the desired letter, stipulating as the condition of his action that General Barrundia's life should be guaranteed and that he should be tried for offenses growing out of the insurrection. This letter was produced to the captain by the military commander at San José, as his warrant to the passenger from the steamer. Barrundia resisted and was killed. The seizure of a passenger in transit, charged with a political offense, in order that he might be tried for such offense, under what was described as martial law, was contrary to the policy of this Government and it was constrained to disavow Mr. Mizner's act and recall him from his post.

The Nicaragua canal project, under the control of our citizens, is making most encouraging progress. The reports from our minister at Santiago warrant the expectation of a satisfactory adjustment of our relations with Chile, which have for several years occupied so important a place in our diplomatic history that have called for careful consideration and have been the subject of much correspondence.

The communications of the Chinese minister have brought into view the subject of a conventional policy with that country. At the same time this government through its legation sought to arrange various matters and complaints touching the interests and protection of our citizens. In pursuance of the concurrent resolution of October 1, 1890, I have proposed to the government of Mexico that Great Britain and the United States should regulate the passage of Chinese laborers across our southern and northern frontiers. Our relations with the French continue to be cordial. Our representative at that court has very diligently urged the removal of the restriction imposed on our meat products and it is believed that progress has been made toward just settlement.

The Samoa treaty at Berlin, after due ratification and exchange, has begun to produce salutary effect. The formation the government agreed upon will soon replace the disorder of the past administration. The Chief Justice has been chosen by the King of Sweden on the invitation of the three powers. The land commission and the municipal council are in progress of organization.

The new treaty of extradition with Great Britain, after due ratification, was proclaimed on the 25th of last March its beneficial working is already apparent. The difference between the two governments touching the fur seal question is not yet adjusted, as will be seen by the correspondence which will soon be laid before Congress. The offer to submit the question to arbitration has not been accepted, for the reason that the form of submission proposed is not thought to be calculated to assure a conclusion satisfactory to either party. It is hoped that before the opening of another season some arrangement will be made which will assure to us a proprietary right which was not disregarded for more than thirty years preceding the existing trouble.

In the tariff act a wrong was done to the kingdom of Hawaii, which I am bound to presume was wholly unintentional. Duties were levied on certain commodities which were included in the treaty between the United States and Hawaii, without indicating the necessary exception in favor of that kingdom. I hope Congress will repair what might otherwise seem to be a breach of faith.

Just claims of citizens for redress of wrongs suffered during the late political conflict in Hayti will, I hope, soon be settled. In the summer of 1888, an accident occurred, which for some time threatened to interrupt the cordiality of our relations with the government of Portugal. The government seized the Delagoa Bay Railway, which was constructed under a concession granted to an American citizen. Our representations made coincident with those of Great Britain, whose subjects were also interested, happily resulted in the recognition by Portugal of the propriety of submitting the claim for indemnity growing out of its action to arbitration. The plan having been agreed on, the interested powers readily concurred in the proposal to submit the case to the judgment of three eminent jurists to be designated by the president of the Swiss Republic.

The revision of our treaty relations with the empire of Japan has continued to be a subject of consideration. The questions involved are both grave and delicate, and while it will be my duty to see that the interests of the United States are not by any chance exposed to undue discrimination, I sincerely hope that such revision as will satisfy the legitimate expectations of the Japanese government and maintain the present and long existing friendly relations between Japan and the United States will be effected.

The friendship between our country and Mexico has increased with benefit to both nations. The intercourse of the two countries by rail is already great. The establishment of lines and those recently projected add to the intimacy of access to fresh areas of demand and supply. The importance of the Mexican railway system will be further extended to a degree almost impossible to forecast if it should become a link in the projected inter-continental railway. I recommend that our mission to the City of Mexico be raised to the first class.

The cordial character of our relations with Spain warrants the hope of the continuation of methods of friendly negotiations. Much may be accomplished in the direction of an adjustment of pending questions of increase of our trade, the extent and development of our relations with Cuba, invest the commercial relations with peculiar importance. It is not doubted that a special arrangement in regard to commerce, based on the reciprocity provision of the United States act, would operate most beneficially. This subject is now receiving attention.

On September 2 last the commission appointed to revise the proceedings of the commission under the claims convention between the United States and Venezuela of 1890, brought its labors to

a close within the period fixed. The proceedings of the late commission were characterized by a spirit of impartiality and a high sense of justice. An incident which was for many years the subject of discussion between the two Governments has been disposed of.

The legislation of the past few years has evidenced on the part of Congress an growing realization of the importance of the consular service in fostering our commercial interests abroad and in protecting the domestic revenues. As the scope of operations expand, increased provisions must be made to keep the essential standard of efficiency. The necessity of some measure of supervision and inspection has been so often presented that I need only commend the subject to your attention.

#### THE TREASURY SHOWING.

The revenues of the Government from all sources for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1890, were \$463,963,080.55 and the total expenditures for the same period were \$358,518,584.52. The postal receipts have been described as included in the statement of these aggregates and for the purpose of the comparison of the sum \$460,882,097.92 should be deducted from both sides of the account. The surplus for the year, including the amount applied to the sinking fund, was \$105,344,496.03. The receipts for 1890 were \$160,300,303.79, and the expenditures \$115,739,871.11, an excess of those of 1889. The customs receipts from internal revenues were \$11,725,911.89, while on the side of expenditures for that pension was \$193,120,705.76, an excess on the preceding year. The Treasury statement for the current year, partly actual and partly estimated, is as follows: Receipts from all sources, \$463,963,080.55; total expenditures, \$358,518,584.52, leaving a surplus of \$105,344,496.03, not taking the postal receipts into account on either side. The loss of revenue from customs for the last quarter was \$25,000,000, but from this is deducted again about \$10,000,000 realized in the first four months of the year. For the year 1890 the local estimated receipts are \$413,000,000, and the estimated expenditure \$387,852,200.42, leaving an estimated surplus of \$125,147,799.58, which, with a cash balance of \$42,000,000 at the beginning of the year, will give \$167,147,799.58 as the sum available for the redemption of bonds or other uses. The estimates of receipts and expenditures for the Postoffice Department, being equal, are not included in the statement on either side.

The act directing the purchase of silver bullion and the issue of treasury notes thereon, approved July 14, 1890, has been administered by the Secretary of the Treasury with an earnest purpose to get into circulation at the earliest possible date the full monthly amount of treasury notes contemplated by its provisions, and at the same time give to the market for silver bullion such support as the law contemplates. The recent depreciation in the price of silver has been observed with regret. The rapid rise in price which was anticipated and which followed the passage of the act, was followed in some degree, but it was followed by speculation and the reaction is part of the result of the same cause and part of the recent monetary disturbances. Some months of further trial will be necessary to determine the permanent effect of the recent legislation on silver values, but it is gratifying to know that the increased circulation of the act has been followed by a reaction and will continue to exert a most beneficial influence on business and upon general values.

While it has been thought best to renew formally the suggestion of an international conference, looking to an agreement touching the full use of silver for coinage at a uniform ratio, care has been taken to observe any change in the situation abroad, and no favorable opportunity will be lost to promote a result which it is confidently believed would confer large benefits on the commerce of the world. The recent monetary disturbances are not unlikely to suggest re-examinations of opinions of this subject.

The large supply of gold will, if not lost by impulsive legislation in the supposed interest of silver, give us a position of advantage in promoting a permanent international agreement for the free use of silver as a coin metal. The efforts of the Secretary to increase the volume of money in circulation by keeping down the treasury surplus to the practical minimum, the tidiness of the treasury, and in a very high degree successful. The tables presented by him, showing the increase of money in circulation during the last two decades, and especially the table showing the increase during the nineteen months he has administered the debt, are interesting and instructive. The increase of money in circulation by the nine months has been in the aggregate \$93,886,814, or about \$1.50 per capita, and of this increase only \$710,000 was due to the recent silver legislation. That this substantial and needed aid given to commerce results in an enormous reduction of the public debt, and of the annual interest charge, is a matter of increased satisfaction. There have been purchased and redeemed since March 4, 1889, 4 and 4 1/2 per cent bonds to the amount of \$211,832,455, at a cost of \$246,020,741, resulting in the reduction of the annual interest charge \$8,967,906, and a total saving of interest of \$501,606. I notice with great pleasure the statement of the Secretary that the receipts from international revenue have increased during the last fiscal year nearly \$127,000,000, and that the cost of collecting this larger revenue was less by \$903,170 than for the same purpose in the preceding year. The percentage of cost of collecting revenue was less last year than ever before.

#### THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Secretary of War exhibits several gratifying results attained during the year by wise methods. The percentage of desertion from the army (an evil for which both Congress and the Department have long been seeking a remedy) has been reduced during the past year 24 per cent, and for the months of August and September, during which time the favorable effects of the act of June 16 were felt, 4 per cent, as compared with the same of 1889.

The results attained by a reorganization and consolidation of the division having charge of the hospital service records of volunteer soldiers are very remarkable. This change was effected in July, 1889, and at that time there were 40,064 cases awaiting attention, more than half of these being calls from the Pension Office for information necessary to the adjudication of the pension

claims. On June 30 last, though over 300,000 new cases had come in, there was not a single case that had not been examined and entered.

Inconceivable in the recommendation of the Secretary that an adequate and regular appropriation be continued for coast defense works and ordinance plans which have been practically agreed on. The encouragement that has been extended to the militia of the states, generally designated National Guards, should be continued and enlarged. These organizations constitute, in a sense, the army of the United States, while about five-sixth of the annual costs of their maintenance is defrayed by the states.

#### ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S OFFICE.

The report of the Attorney-General is, under law, submitted to Congress, but, as the Department of Justice is one of the executive departments, some reference to the work done is appropriate. A vigorous effort has been made to bring to trial and punishment all violators of the law, but at the same time care has been taken that frivolous and technical offenses should not be used to swell the coffers of officers or harass well-desposed citizens. Especial attention is called to the prosecution of violations of the election laws and of offenses against United States officers. The number of convictions secured, very many of them upon pleas of guilty, will, it is hoped, have a salutary restraining influence. There have been several cases where postmasters, appointed by me, have been subjected to violent interference in the discharge of their official duties and to persecutions and personal violence of the most extreme character. Some of these cases have been dealt with through the Department of Justice and in some cases the postoffices have been suspended or abolished. I have directed that they be dealt with by the Postmaster-General, in all cases where other masters not himself in fault, as opportunity to peacefully exercise the duties of his office, but such action will not supplant the efforts of the Department of Justice to bring the particular offenders to punishment.

Nearly 100 cases of fraudulent certificates of naturalization have been presented during the year, the evidence disclosing that a very large number of fraudulent certificates of naturalization have been issued, and in this connection I wish to reiterate my recommendation that the laws be so amended as to require a more full and searching inquiry to all the facts necessary to naturalization, before certificates are granted. It certainly is not too much to require that an application for an American citizenship shall be heard with as much care and scrutiny as in such formal cases are given cases involving the pettiest property rights.

#### POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Postmaster-General shows most gratifying results. A large economy in expenditure and an increase of \$4,750,000 in receipts have been realized. The deficiency for the year is \$5,783,300 as against \$9,350,183 last year. Notwithstanding the great increase in the service, Mail routes have been extended and quickened and greater accuracy and dispatch in the distribution and delivery have been gained. The report will be found full of interest and suggestions not only to Congress but those thoughtful citizens who may be interested to know what business methods can be found in that department of public administration which most nearly touches all our people.

#### NAVAL AFFAIRS.

The passage of the act to amend certain sections of the revised statutes relating to lotteries, approved September 19, 1890, has been received with great and deserved popular favor. The Postoffice Department and the Department of Finance at once entered upon the enforcement of the law with sympathetic vigor and already the public mails have been freed from the fraudulent and demoralizing appeals and literature emanating from the lottery company.

#### THE INTERIOR.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior exhibits with great fullness and clearness the efforts of that great Department, and the satisfactory results attained. The suggestions made by him are earnestly commended to the consideration of Congress. They cannot be all given particular mention. The several acts of Congress looking to the reduction of the large Indian reservations, and the more rapid settlement of the Indians upon individual allotments, and the restoration to the public domain of excess of their needs, have been largely carried into effect as far as the work has been confided to the Executive. Agreements have been concluded since March 4, 1889, involving the cession to the United States of about 14,726,000 acres of land. These contracts have, as required by law, been submitted to Congress for ratification and for the appropriation necessary to carry them into effect. These, with the Sisseton and Wahpeton, Sac and Fox, Iowa, Potawatamies and Ashentees, Shawnees and Osage tribes have not yet received the attention of Congress. Attention is also called to the fact that the appropriations made in the case of the Sioux Indians have not covered all the stipulated payments. This should be promptly corrected. If an agreement is confirmed all of its terms should be complied with without delay, and full appropriations should be made.

The disability pension act, which I

approved on June 27 last, has been put into operation. The increased clerical force provided was selected and assigned to work, and a considerable part of the force engaged in the examination in the field was recalled and added to the working force. The examination and adjudication of claims have by reason of improved methods been more rapid than ever before. The anticipated expense while very large will not, it is believed, be in excess of the estimates made before the enactment of the law.

#### THE MORMON EVIL.

The increasing number and influence of the non-Mormon population in Utah is observed with satisfaction. The recent letter of Wilford Woodruff, president of the Mormon church, in which he advised his people to refrain from contracting any marriage forbidden by the laws of the land, has attracted much attention and it is hoped that its influence will be highly beneficial in restraining infractions of the law of the United States, but the fact should not be overlooked that the doctrine or belief of the church that polygamous marriages are rightful and supported by divine revelation remains unchanged. President Woodruff does not renounce the doctrine, but refrains from teaching it and advises against the practice of it because the law is now against it. It is quite true the law should not attempt to deal with the faith or belief of any one, but this is quite another thing and the only safe way to deal with the Territory of Utah is that those who believe polygamy to be rightful shall not have the power to make it lawful.

#### MINOR INTERIOR MATTERS.

The admission of the States of Wyoming and Idaho to the Union are events full of interest and congratulation not only to the people of the States happily endowed with a full participation in our privileges and responsibilities, but to all our people. The belt of States now stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The work of the Patent Office has won from all sources very high commendation. The amount accomplished has been largely increased and all the results have been such as to secure confidence and consideration for the suggestions of the Commissioner.

The enumeration of the people of the United States under the provision of the act of May 8, 1890, has been completed and the result will be put once officially communicated to Congress. The completion of the decennial enumeration devolves on Congress the duty of making a new apportionment of representatives among the several States according to their respective numbers.

#### FOR THE FARMERS.

The report of the Secretary of Agriculture deserves especial attention, in view of the fact that the year has been marked in a very unusual degree by organization among the farmers, looking to an increase of the profits of their farms. It will be found the Department has been zealously devoted to the promotion of the interests entrusted to its care. A very substantial improvement in the market price of the trading farm produce during the year is noticed. There was an advance in the price of wheat from 81 cents in October, 1889, to \$1.04 in October, 1890; corn from 21 cents to 50 1/2 cents; oats from 29 1/2 cents to 43 cents, and barley from 63 cents to 78 cents. Meats showed a substantial, but not so large an increase. Export trade was very largely increased. The total live animal and dairy products for the year ending June 3, 1890, was \$33,000,000 and the increase over the preceding year was \$15,000,000. Nearly 200,000 cattle and over 45,000 more hogs were exported than in the preceding year. The export trade in beef and pork and in dairy products was very largely increased. The increase in the article of butter alone being from 15,504,778 pounds to 29,748,042 pounds, the total increase in the value of meat and dairy products exported being \$44,000,000. This trade so directly helpful to the farmers it is believed will be yet further and largely increased when the system of inspection and sanitary supervision now provided by laws are brought fully into operation.

The efforts of the Secretary to establish the healthfulness of our meats against the disparaging imputations that have been put on them abroad, have resulted in substantial progress. A veterinary surgeon sent out by the Department, are now allowed to participate in the inspection of the live cattle in this country landed at English docks, and during the several months they have been on duty, no case of contagious pluro-pneumonia has been reported. This inspection abroad and the domestic inspection of live animals and pork products, provided for by the act of August 30, 1890, will afford as perfect a guarantee for the wholesomeness of meats offered for foreign consumption as in any wise-given any food products, and its non-acceptance will quite clearly reveal the real motive of any continued restriction on their use. And that having been made clear the duty of the Executive will be very plain.

The information given by the Secretary of the progress and the prospects of the beet sugar industry, is full of interest. It has already passed the experimental stage and is a complete commercial success. The area over which the sugar beet can be successfully cultivated is very large and another field crop of great value is offered to the choice of the farmer. The Secretary of the Treasury concurs in the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture that the official supervision provided by the tariff law for sugar of domestic production, be transferred to the Department of Agriculture.

The law relating to the civil service has, so far as I can learn, been executed by those having the power of appointment in classified service with fidelity and impartiality and the service has been increasing satisfactorily.

I congratulate Congress and the country on the passage in the first session of the Fifty-first Congress of an unusual number of laws of great importance, more constant employment and better wages for our people and increased supply of a safe currency for the transaction of business. I do not doubt some of these measures were enacted at so late a period that the effects on com-

merce which were in contemplation have as yet but partially manifested themselves. The general trade and industrial conditions throughout the country have shown marked improvement for many years prior to 1888. The mercantile balances had been largely in our favor but during the year and the year following they turned against us. It is very gratifying to know that the last fiscal year showed a balance in our favor of \$68,000,000. The banks, which show a good line of the volume of business transacted for the first month of the year 1890, show, as compared with the same month of 1889, an increase of the whole country of about 8 1/2 per cent, while the increase outside of the city of New York was over 13 per cent. During the month of October the clearings of the whole country showed an increase of 3.1 per cent over October, 1889, while outside of New York City the increase was 11 1/2 per cent. These figures show that the increase in volume of business was very general throughout the country. That this larger business was being conducted upon a safe and profitable basis is shown by the fact that there were 300 less failures reported in October, 1890, than in the same month of the preceding year, with liabilities diminished by about \$5,000,000. The value of our exports of domestic merchandise during last year was over \$115,000,000 greater than the preceding year and was only exceeded once in our history. About \$100,000,000 of this excess was in agricultural products. The production of pig iron, always a good gauge of general prosperity, is shown by a recent census bulletin to have been 153 per cent greater in 1890 than in 1889 and the production of steel 200 per cent greater. Mining in coal had no limitation except that resulting from inefficient transportation. The general testimony everywhere is that labor is fully employed and the reports for the last year show a smaller number of employes in strikes and lockouts than in any year since 1880.

The depression in the price of agricultural products had been greatly relieved and a hopeful feeling was beginning to be felt by all our people. These promising influences have been, in some degree, checked by the surprising and very unfavorable monetary events which have recently taken place in England. It is gratifying to know that they did not affect in any degree any of the financial relations of London with our people, nor was any discredit attached to our securities held in that market. The return of our bonds and stocks was caused by a money stringency in England, not by any loss of value or credit in the securities themselves. The effect, however, wholly escape the effects of the foreign monetary agitation accompanied by such incidents as characterized those abroad. It is not believed, however, that these evil incidents which have, for the time, been unfavorable affected by values in this country, can long withstand the strong and safe influences which are operating to give to our people profitable returns.

#### THE TARIFF.

The apprehension that the tariff may again and at once be subjected to important general changes would not be a depressing influence of the most serious character. The general tariff has only partly gone into operation, some of its provisions being limited to take effect in the future. The general provisions of the law have been in force less than sixty days. It is curious to note that the advance in prices of articles affected by the tariff act and by many ascribed to that act, were not touched by it. The fact is that the general tendency of the market was upwards from influences wholly apart from the recent tariff legislation.

There is neither wisdom nor justice in the suggestion that the subject of tariff revision should be opened. It is quite as true that every tariff schedule is subject to objections. No bill was ever framed, I suppose, that in all its rates had the full approval of both Houses. The misapprehension as to the terms of the act which has been so widely disseminated at home and abroad will be corrected by experience and the evil augers as to its results compounded by the market report, the savings bank, international trade balance and the general prosperity of our people.

Already we begin to hear from abroad and from our custom houses that the prohibitory effect upon importations imputed to the act is not justified. The imports at the port of New York for the first three weeks of November were nearly 8 per cent greater than for the same period in 1889, and 7 per cent greater than for the same period of 1888, and so far from an act to limit imports I confidently believe that under it we shall secure larger and more profitable participation in foreign trade than we have ever enjoyed and we shall recover a proportionate part in the ocean carrying trade of the world.

Criticism of the bill which has come to us from foreign sources may well be rejected. If these critics believe that the adoption by the United States of a free policy or tariff rates having reference solely to revenue would diminish the commerce of their own country in the commerce of their own country, their speech and other form of organized effort of this movement among our people is a rare exhibition of unselfishness in trade, and on the other hand if they sincerely believe the adoption of a protective tariff policy by this country insures to their profit and our hurt it is notably strange that they should find in the outcry against the authors of a policy so hopeful to their countrymen and crown with their favor these who would snatch from them a substantial share of a trade with other lands already inadequate to their necessities. There is no disposition to promote prohibitory or retaliatory legislation. Our policies are adopted not to the hurt of others but to secure for ourselves these advantages that favor our position and national growth. Our form of government with its universal suffrage makes it imperative that we shall save our working people from the agitations and distresses which scant work that leaves no margin for comfort always begets. But after all this is done it will be found that our markets are open to friendly exchanges of enormous value in other great powers.

From the time of my introduction into office, the duty of using every power and influence given by law to the Executive Department for the development of larger markets for our products, especially our farm products, has been kept constantly in mind. No effort has been or will be spared to promote that

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## NAVY DEPARTMENT.

### Annual Report of Secretary Tracy.

#### A Naval Reserve Is Strongly Advocated.

Progress of the Coast Defense and  
Cruiser Types of War  
Vessels.

WASHINGTON, December 1.—In an annual report of great length Secretary of the Navy Tracy, gives much information about the new navy.

Among the uncompleted crafts special mention is made of the armored cruiser New York, as to the speed which she has attained. Her armament is unequalled by any ship of the cruiser type in the world, and it gives her chances not to be despised should she be driven to an encounter with a battle ship.

The type of battle ships now being built in San Francisco, will be equal to any battle ships that exist today, being equally available for cruising or for protecting the harbors of the Union.

Much space is also devoted to the triple-screw protected cruiser, which will have a formidable armament, a speed faster than any ocean greyhound now in existence, and a displacement which will in ordinary cruising time give her an endurance of 103 days, or a radius of action of 25,520 knots. Six ships like her would exterminate the commerce of any country.

Regarding armor, the Bethlehem Iron Company is still disappointing the Department in getting its plant completed. The time now fixed for completion is July, 1891, nearly two years after the contract time. Another contract has been made with Carnegie, binding the firm to begin the delivery of armor June next and the delivery of 500 tons a month thereafter. If both firms come up to expectations it will take two years from July, 1891, to complete the armor for ships now authorized.

The report deals at length with experiments with compound nickel plate. Before entering upon extensive purchases, it is thought wise to make further tests, and nickel amounting in value to about \$50,000 has been purchased. No more will be procured until complete exhaustive experiments have been tried.

In discussing ordnance matters, he calls attention to the reduction in cost of making guns and carriages, which the Washington gun factory has accomplished. To take a single instance, the Government under an old contract paid \$8500 per gun for the manufacture of 8-inch rifles, aside from the cost of forging. The Washington gun factory in 1888 made them for \$5163, and this year for \$2272. The armor-piercing projectiles hitherto received from private firms in this country, having proved unsatisfactory, a contract has been made for a quantity of the foreign process, to be made in this country, while the Department will endeavor to bring about arrangements for the manufacture of satisfactory American projectiles.

The Hotchkiss Company, not having been able yet to produce the Powell torpedoes, arrangements are being made with the Whitehead Company, whereby an American company, which is able to supply a number of their torpedoes. When the Hotchkiss firm perfect theirs they will be given tests. Of torpedoes other than auto-mobile the Patrick torpedo, electrically directed from the shore, has undergone a successful test.

Regarding the personal service the Secretary repeats the recommendations of Chief Engineer Aldrich and other heads of bureaus for an increase in the number of officers and equalization.

Considerable space is given to a naval militia, the want of which is declared to be one of the most vital defects of our system. Reference is made to the active interest on the subject in some of the eastern states and on the Pacific coast the past two years and says that all that is needed is prompt action on the part of Congress. There is every reason to believe that with proper encouragement a great naval militia will be assured.

The estimates for the increase of this navy are \$18,471,000, against \$9,386,000 for last year. The largest part of this increase is for the payments on outstanding contracts.

The Secretary draws attention to the necessities of the most vulnerable points along our coast for adequate protection from foreign fleets. No land force, however resolute or numerous could be effective, even when all the ships now being completed had a fighting chance with them. Our line of defense being so long and its parts so divided and remote, nothing short of a force of battle ships, numerous enough to be distributed in separate fields of attack and able to concentrate on any threatened point will prove a complete protection. The type of ship the Department suggests for harbor defense purposes is an enlarged Puritan; of not more than fourteen to sixteen feet draught and with heavy armor and armament. These ships would be exclusively for local purposes and would have a station from which they would never be absent. They would stay the entrance of an enemy until battle ships could arrive. This is less expensive than seagoing ships, and answers as no other type can, the requirements of American harbors. Furthermore, the movement toward the creation of a naval militia would receive additional strength from the creation of this national force. The harbor defense ship would be a rallying point, a drill hall, a naval school for the young men who show earnestness in the organization of a naval militia. It should be its privilege to become the principal source of supply for the complement of boys, officers and men, and the result would be an addition in strength to the naval reserve. If such a plan were adopted it is believed that Boston, New York, Baltimore, New Orleans, San Francisco and the cities on Puget sound would become the centers of naval strength.